

BOARD

17 March 2021

Present: **Elected Members** **Councillors Warrington (In the Chair), Bray, Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne, Kitchen Ryan and Wills**
 Chief Executive **Steven Pleasant**
 Borough Solicitor **Sandra Stewart**
 Deputy Section **Tom Wilkinson**
 151 Officer

Also in Attendance: **Dr Asad Ali, Steph Butterworth, Tracy Brennand, James Mallion, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Ian Saxon, Jayne Traverse and Debbie Watson**

Apologies for Absence **Councillor Cooney**

245 LICENSING ACT POLICY EXTENSION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods Community Safety and Environment / Assistant Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods. The report recommended the restatement of the current Statement of Licensing Policy for one year and for a full review and consultation to be conducted in 2021/22.

Members were advised that Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 required Tameside Council to review its Licensing Policy every 5 years. Due to the extraordinary impact of the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020, this full review had not been able to take place. The Government had clarified that primary legislation would not be amended to delay the requirement for Councils to review statements of licensing policy. Therefore, it was proposed to carry over the current policy subject to a full review being carried out in 2021/2022. Responsible authorities and licensed trade networks had been informally consulted on this proposed approach.

It was reported the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on licensed premises and night time economy had been severe. Several licensed premises had closed due to the pandemic and venues such as nightclubs had been unable to open since March 2020 and it was not clear what the lasting impacts on the sector would be. The revised policy would need to effectively reflect the situation post-Covid.

AGREED

That Council be recommended to approve the re-instatement of the current Statement of Licensing Policy for one year, subject to a full review and consultation process being conducted in 2021/2022. This approach would enable the updated Policy to take into account the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the licensed sector.

246 ADULT SOCIAL CARE FEES 2021-22

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health / Head of Commissioning. The report detailed the proposals in relation to revised prices to meet the increased cost of providing adult social care services for 2021-22.

Members were advised the health and social care economy has seen unprecedented reductions in funding over the last decade. As a result of these reductions all services had been subject to review to establish where efficiencies could be achieved and/or where services could be provided differently. This included consideration of services where there were statutory and non-statutory duties and responsibilities.

The demand to meet savings targets had progressed at a time when providers had in the main been facing increased operating costs. The most significant increase in costs had been those experienced specifically in relation to the introduction of the National Living Wage to a sector that had for many years been operating on wage levels at or close to minimum wage levels, but also in relation to increased pension contributions, increased costs related to regulation, inflationary pressure related to utilities and insurance, and over the past twelve months costs related to Covid-19.

Work had been progressing over the past few years to work with providers to reflect these additional costs in realistic prices that could continue the delivery of what were essential services for the vulnerable adults concerned whilst working within the financial restrictions the Council and CCG had been working within. The methodology adopted had included revising cost of care frameworks that reflected local factors, and in some cases adopted open book accounting methodology to establish the impact on costs of these additional requirements.

AGREED

That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health be recommended to approve: -

- (i) the proposed new rates for care home placements as detailed in Section 4 of this report in line with the agreed cost of care framework detailed in Appendix 1.**
- (ii) the proposed new rates for Support at Home at £18.45 per hour (Appendix 2) and Standard Home Care at £16.65 per hour (Appendix 3)**
- (iii) the proposed spot purchase rates for sleep-in at rates of £110.63 per night, and £147.48 per night for waking nights, across adult services contracts.**
- (iv) the proposed 2.18% uplift on the core contract prices at the four Extra Care Schemes and the proposed revised rate for additional hours commissioned in Extra Care of £15.68 per hour (Appendix 4)**
- (v) the proposed uplift by 2.18% of Adult Social Care contract prices highlighted in Section 2 and 4 of this report.**
- (vi) the revised Direct Payment rates as detailed in section 4;**
- (vii) the revised annual contract price for the Dementia Day Service at Wilshaw House at £417,301.**
- (viii) the Day Services rate of £33.68 per placement per day and revised additional hours rate of £13.27 per hour as detailed in section 4.**
- (ix) the rate increases for Shared Lives Carer payments detailed in Section 4**
- (x) the offer to increase younger adults out of borough placements by 2.18 % with flexibility to approve a higher rate where providers evidence a higher rate is required as detailed in Section 4.**
- (xi) that all the proposed new rates becoming effective from 1 April 2021**

247 COVID-19 RELATED DEMAND IN DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES – ADDITIONAL RESOURCE REQUEST (3.10PM)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health / Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, which proposed an allocation from the Covid fund to recruit one additional independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) for 12 months (£30k) and to extend the funding for a fixed term Keyworker for a further 6 months (£20k), should funding from GMCA not be confirmed.

The Consultant for Public Health reported that due to increased demand for high risk services, the provider of our specialist domestic abuse provision, Bridges, had used an agency IDVA to manage demand. This had been at an additional cost to the provider and the spend was not provided for in the core domestic abuse contract. In 2020/21 there had been two additional sources of income to support Bridges with costs associated with Covid-19. This comprised a one-off grant from Community Safety for £9,700 and a grant of £30,000 from the Home Office Covid-19 Emergency Fund. It was expected that demand would remain at current levels for the service in 2021/22, however, there were no additional sources of funding for the next financial year to support with costs associated with meeting the demand relating to the pandemic.

It was explained that increased prevalence of domestic abuse created additional demand elsewhere in the system, particularly in health, social care and criminal justice. Analysis from the cost of domestic abuse finance paper revealed that responding to domestic abuse in Tameside cost the police an estimated £12 million over a single year. A rise in the frequency and severity of domestic abuse also results in more children requiring social care intervention and in the most serious cases, children becoming looked after by the authority.

The report sought permission to award £30,000 to Bridges for a full-time IDVA post for 12 months. This would provide stability for the service and victims who were accessing support.

In regards to the Key Worker 6 Month Extension, one of the Keyworker roles was funded by the Ministry of Justice via GMCA. This contract was due to expire in March 2021, but had been extended by GMCA for 6 months to September 2021. The report sought permission to spend £20,000 to fund 6 months of 1 FTE Key Worker. This funding would only be awarded if GMCA did not commit to funding the role beyond September 2021.

AGREED

That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Population Health be recommended to approve the purchase of additional domestic abuse support from the current Bridges service to for 2021/22 as part of the Council's response to the recovery from the Covid pandemic to support our most vulnerable residents. This will be in the form of:

- the provision of an additional FTE IDVA on a 12 month basis;
- the extension of the contract of one FTE Keyworker for a further 6 months from September 2021, if funding is not forthcoming from GMCA;
- That the £50k cost is funded from the carried forward covid general grant in 2021/22 financial year.

CHAIR